

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed December 13, 2005. Claims 1-20 have been cancelled. New claims 21-41 have been added. Therefore, claims 21-41 remain pending in this case. Reconsideration of the present case is earnestly requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the allowed subject matter of claims 10, 17, and 21.

The Examiner objected to claims 10 and 17, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the respective base claims and intervening claims.

Applicant has decided to accept the allowed subject matter and has added new claims accordingly. More specifically, Applicant has added new independent claim 31 based on the allowed subject matter of claims 10, 8, and 1, and Applicant has added new independent claim 37 based on the allowed subject matter of claims 17, 15, and 12.

Applicant notes that no new matter has been added. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the objections to the claims.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-2, 7-8, 11-12, 15-16, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bilich et al. (US Patent No. 5,877,483, "Bilich").

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 6, 9, 14, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bilich.

Claims 3, 4, 13, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bilich in view of Admitted Prior Art by the Applicant ("APAA").

Applicant traverses the 102 and 103 rejections; however, Applicant respectfully submits that the 102 and 103 rejections are rendered moot in light of the acceptance of the allowed subject matter and new claims based thereon.

Applicant also reserves the right to pursue the originally claimed subject matter in a later continuation.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5707-06200/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard .

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood
Reg. No. 35,198
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
Date: 1/30/2006 JCH/MSW/JLS